

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Orange County Warehouse Fire - Removal Polrep  
Initial and Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region IX

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
Orange County Warehouse Fire - Emergency Response  
Orange County Warehouse Fire  
A9DS  
Orange, CA  
Latitude: 33.8214810 Longitude: -117.8643410

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**From:** Robert Wise, FOSC and Ramon Albizu, FOSC

**Date:** 2/21/2022

**Reporting Period:** 2/9/2022 - 2/12/2022

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	A9DS	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	2/9/2022	<b>Start Date:</b>	2/9/2022
<b>Demob Date:</b>	2/12/2022	<b>Completion Date:</b>	2/12/2022
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Industrial Fire

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The FXI Orange County, CA manufacturing facility (Site) is a producer of mattress foam and related products. The site covers an area of approximately 24 acres with one main building where the majority of the foam manufacturing occurs. There are also several other buildings on-site used in the process of manufacturing. These buildings were either heavily damaged or completely destroyed by the fire. In addition to the FXI manufacturing facility, five adjacent businesses along the southern and western perimeter of the FXI manufacturing facility also reported impacts by the fire. The fire water runoff with remnants of the fire debris impacted the industrial complex storm drainage system that flows into the nearby Santa Ana River. Fire water and remnants of the fire debris impacted the Santa Ana River bed from under the Ball avenue bridge up to approximately 1/4 upstream.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The site is located at 2060 N Batavia St, Orange, CA 92865 within an industrial area of the City of Orange, Orange County, CA. The nearest residents are approximately 1/4 mile to the northeast of the site.

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Fire combustion products from the foam and related debris made mobile by the fire water. The burned foam generated a unknown non oil potentially hazardous black liquid substance that exhibited some oil like

characteristics. The fire water mobilized this black liquid substance through the industrial complex storm water drainage system into the Santa Ana River from an storm water outfall located approximately 1/4 mile upstream of the Ball avenue bridge overpass. The fire water mixed the black liquid substance and other fire related debris that flowed into the Santa Ana River created an oil like sheen on the water of the partially dry river as well as floating and sinking waste material throughout the river bed.

The fire also affected five surrounding businesses. The Orange County Health Care Agency Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) in cooperation with the Orange County Fire Authority were addressing those businesses separately.

### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

The fire, fire water, debris and combustion products mobilized throughout the footprint of the FXI manufacturing facility, the industrial complex storm drainage system, approximately 1/4 mile of the nearby Santa Ana River, and to a lesser extent, adjacent properties and roads. The mattress foam and related products are manufactured using a proprietary process that includes the use of toluene diisocyanate to generate the foam. The debris and combustion products mobilized by the fire water formed an oil like sheen on-water. Visible oil like sheen on the surface with the more concentrated of the unknown non oil potentially hazardous black liquid substance sinking to the river bed was observed throughout the partially dry Santa Ana river impacted areas.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

EPA mobilized two OSCs to an industrial fire at the FXI manufacturing facility in Orange County, CA.

#### **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

##### **February 9, 2022: 1 FOSC**

OCFA with mutual aid from Anaheim Fire and Rescue, and other surrounding fire departments began fighting the fire on February 9, 2022 at approximately 0030 local time. The fire was contained at approximately 0300 local time. Subsequently, the responding fire departments departed the scene with occasional revisits to address unexpected flare ups. At approximately 1100 local time, OCFA contacted FOSC R. Wise to request EPA's technical assistance with the Santa Ana River cleanup efforts. FOSC Wise mobilized to the site at approximately 1330. FOSC Wise arrived to the site at approximately 1530 and assumed a technical assistance role. FOSC Wise notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Contaminants Program (USFWS) as the Federal Natural Resources Trustee for the Santa Ana River Watershed. FOSC Wise met with representatives of Orange County at the site. FOSC Wise observed that HCl contractor for FXI had placed approximately 500 feet of 18 inch hard ocean boom in the river approximately 500 yards down stream the Ball avenue bridge overpass. FOSC Wise advise deployment of additional boom and sorbent materials to protect the shorelines and to soak up some of the free product. After observing the conditions at the river several questions arose including the status of the industrial complex impacted storm water collection system that flows from the facility into the Santa Ana River. Since some of the fire combustion products looked and behaved like an oil like substance, OSC Wise notified the California Department Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR).

FOSC Wise and Orange County representatives traveled to the site to further assess the impacts. During discussions with the facility representatives and their contractor, it was determined that the facilities storm water drains were not yet shut off completely and had not being cleaned. EPA and Orange County representatives met with the CUPA representative at the site to discuss concerns by providing technical support including the formation of a Unified Command lead by Orange County representatives. The Unified Command, recommended FXI to deploy additional sorbent boom material to River, flush the impacted storm water drainage system and collect all the runoff; and close all of the drains from the facility to limit further off-site migration. Since it proved impossible to get the necessary cleanup crew out that night, the outfall from the storm water drainage system that flows into the Santa Ana River was dammed and all of the runoff was collected and transported to storage tanks on-site.

##### **February 10, 2022: 1 FOSC**

At 0800, a Unified Command met at the site. OCFA formally transition the Unified Command over to Orange County. OCFA assisted the Unified Command with the preparation of a Incident Action Plan. EPA assumed a technical support role. OCFA deployed their Fire Prevention inspectors to assist the CUPA in assessing the adjoining facilities and to represent the OCFA in the Unified Command.

##### **February 11, 2022: 2 FOSCs**

FOSC Albizu mobilized to the site arriving at approximately 0930. FOSC Wise demobilized from the site at approximately 1100. FOSC Albizu continued EPA's technical advisory role. EPA advised the Unified Command to double the Santa Ana River cleanup crew staff numbers to increase the speed of the cleanup efforts due to concerns regarding forecasted wet weather within a few days.

HCl cleanup contractor for FXI, began wet weather preparations including increasing staff and equipment numbers to expedite the cleanup efforts including the storm water drainage system flushing and Santa Ana River cleanup operations, as well as, securing the site from generating additional runoff.

##### **February 12, 2022: 1 FOSC**

FOSC Albizu continued EPA's technical advisory role and operations ran without significant concerns. As such, the Unified Command agreed that they will no longer required EPA's on-site presence and the advisory role could transition to remote support role as needed. OSPR continued their on-site technical support role. FOSC Albizu demobilized from the site.

##### **February 13-16, 2022: 1 FOSC (remote)**

FOSC Albizu continued EPA's technical advisory role remotely. Operations continued to make progress without significant concerns.

**February 17, 2022: 1 FOSC (remote)**

Santa Ana River operations concluded and OSPR demobilized from the site. The remaining operations continued under the oversight the relevant Orange County departments with no longer a need for a Unified Command.

**2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**

**2.1.4 Progress Metrics**

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

**2.2 Planning Section**

**2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

Santa Ana River cleanup operation concluded on February 17, 2022. The remaining operations continued under the oversight the relevant Orange County departments and FXI.

**2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

No further EPA response activities are planned.

**2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

No further EPA response activities are planned.

**2.2.2 Issues**

N/A

**2.3 Logistics Section**

N/A

**2.4 Finance Section**

EPA contractor support was not required.

**2.5 Other Command Staff**

**2.5.1 Safety Officer**

HCI Environmental Services

**2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

CUPA

**2.5.3 Information Officer**

OCFA

**3. Participating Entities**

**3.1 Unified Command**

See 2.1.2

**3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

OCFA, EPA, OSPR, Orange County

**4. Personnel On Site**

See 2.1.2

**5. Definition of Terms**

N/A

**6. Additional sources of information**

**6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

N/A

**6.2 Reporting Schedule**

This is the initial and final PolRep, as such, no further reporting is expected.

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.